

Before First Tour Of '79

Local Sha-Na-Na Member Home For 'Treatment'

By Joanne Young

Lenny Baker, lead tenor and saxophone player for the 50's revival band Sha-Na-Na, was in town for a beauty treatment before he left on the group's first 1979 tour in January. We met him at Embellish One, a salon on King Street.

Sha-Na-Na appears at a sold-out performance each summer at the Cohasset Music Circus during one of their two annual tours. Their television show is seen on 150 stations nationally and Channel 10 in Providence carries it locally at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays. Future plans include a Saturday morning cartoon show and another album, although they are basically a performing, not a recording group.

Lenny Baker began his career at the Norwell Town Hall in 1959 with Paul Wayne and the Wantelles. He later headed his own group called the Pilgrims, at the Surf in Nantasket Beach, dressed in Pilgrim costumes. Lenny joined Sha-Na-Na during its second year and they currently perform 120 songs a year on their TV show. Some of their material is original, but the format consists of reworked 50's revivals.

Lenny's face lights up when the movie "GREASE" is mentioned. He said he loved making the movie in which Sha-Na-Na created the characters Johnny Casino and the Gamblers. Lenny sang "BLUE MOON" in that movie. When asked about



The Lineup That Makes The Sha-Na-Na Sound

working with the cast, he said John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John were a joy to work with and the whole company was a happy one. "When you see the smiles on their faces and the energy with which they perform, it is genuine," he commented.

"GREASE" gave Lenny the determination to seriously consider acting as a future career. He feels his distinc-

tive looks (he is a large man with curly blond hair and a full beard) could make him unique as an actor. There are plans for a sequel to "GREASE", but Lenny would like to do a TV show on the order of "Charlie's Angels."

Lenny Baker is a Whitman native and considers this his "home base." When asked why he thought Sha-Na-Na's

music was so popular today he said he did not consider it a nostalgia trip for their fans because so many of them were too young to remember the rock and roll of the 50's. He said it is rather the staying power of the music and the classic originality of the sound. Lenny believes the 50's are a popular period with the current young people because they were more pleasant years in which to grow up.

The group has made four world tours but are so popular and busy in this country, they no longer have time to travel abroad.

Cohasset looks forward to welcoming Lenny Baker and Sha-Na-Na next summer. If you can't wait that long, they will be appearing at the Providence R.I. Civic Center next month on February 6th.

Selectman Authorize Mooring Repair Study

Selectmen instructed the Harbor Study Committee to investigate a potential conflict of interests should Harbor-master Harry Ritter continue to repair mooring tackle for boat owners.

Charles Fink, chairman of

the Study Committee, noted that Ritter's responsibility is to inspect mooring tackle every five years, and that maintenance is the concern of the boat owner. Fink wanted to know if Ritter's repair work was in conflict with his job

description.

Bernard Salvador, president of the Cohasset Fishing Association, said that repairs of mooring lines has been beyond the ability of most boat owners and fishermen. Salvador suggested that Ritter

receive payment for the work which he has been doing up until now on his own time and for which he has accepted only reimbursement for materials used. Salvador added that Ritter has been the only person willing and with the know-how to do the repairs.

Selectman Henry Ainslie said that there didn't seem to be a conflict with the harbor-master's job description as yet, since Ritter had not accepted pay for the repairs and had done them on his own time. However, Ainslie said that he didn't like to encourage anybody who has a town supervisory position to go into a private business that has grown from town employment.

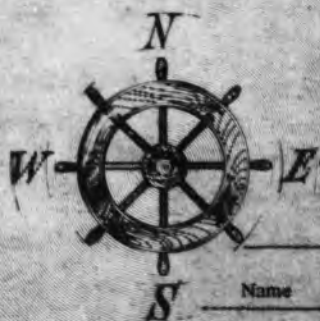
Ainslie cited Peter Laugelle's position as Tree and Park Superintendent as a case in point where a peripheral job, possibly proffered via the position held in the town, would not be included in the

job description and therefore not permitted. When Laugelle was appointed superintendent, Ainslie said, it was clearly stipulated that he was not to start a pruning business, for example, as a result of his job with the town.

Selectman Mary Jeanette Murray had little sympathy with Salvador and other boat owners who were either unwilling to spare the time or who were ignorant of the proper procedures to fix their mooring tackle. She felt that it was part of the responsibility of being a boat owner to manage the upkeep of mooring equipment.

The Harbor Study Committee will look into the problem and possible solutions including a raise for Ritter for doing repairs, charging boat owners a fee payable to the town, rewriting the harbor-master's job description and examining the procedures used in neighboring towns.

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